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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE THOUSAND
AND TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 23 December 1991, at 5.45 p.m.

President:	Mr. VORONTSOV	(Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)
Members:	Austria	Mr. HAJNOCZI
	Belgium	Mr. NOTERDAEME
	China	Mr. JIN Yongjian
	Côte d'Ivoire	Mr. ANOH
	Cuba	Mr. ALARCON de QUESADA
	Ecuador	Mr. POSSO SERRANO
	France	Mr. MERIMEE
	India	Mr. MENON
	Romania	Mr. MUNTEANU
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. RICHARDSON
	United States of America	Mr. WATSON
	Yemen	Mr. AL-ALFI
	Zaire	Mr. LUKABU KHABOUJI N'ZAJI
	Zimbabwe	Mr. ZENENGA

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The meeting was called to order at 5.55 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON HIS MISSION OF GOOD OFFICES IN CYPRUS (S/23300)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. Members of the Council have before them the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/23300).

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council: (spoke in English)

"The members of the Security Council have considered the report of the Secretary-General of 19 December 1991 on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/23300).

"The members of the Council expressed their deep gratitude to the Secretary-General for his long and tireless efforts in seeking a just and lasting solution of the Cyprus question. They noted with appreciation that thanks to his efforts progress was made during this year towards achieving an overall framework agreement.

"The members of the Security Council reaffirmed the Council's position as expressed in its previous resolutions, especially in resolutions 649 (1990) and 716 (1991).

(The President)

"The members of the Council were unanimous in endorsing the report and observations of the Secretary-General. They fully shared his view that a solution of the Cyprus problem is long overdue. The mere maintenance of the status quo does not constitute a solution. They called on the leaders of the two communities and of Greece and Turkey to devote their full energies to the early achievement of this objective.

"The members of the Council reiterated the Council's position that the convening of a high-level international meeting chaired by the Secretary-General in which the two communities and Greece and Turkey would participate represents an effective mechanism for concluding an overall framework agreement.

"The members of the Council requested the leaders of the two communities and of Greece and Turkey to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General in completing on an urgent basis the set of ideas on an overall framework agreement.

"The members of the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council by April 1992 whether sufficient progress has been made to convene the high-level international meeting and, should conditions not be ripe, to convey to the Council the set of ideas as they will have evolved by that time with his assessment of the situation."

(spoke in Russian)

Having read out the agreed statement of the President of the Council in connection with the report of the Secretary-General on his mission of good offices in Cyprus (S/23300), I believe that I shall be expressing the general view of members of the Council if I state that no one has worked more

(The President)

fruitfully, persistently and tirelessly in seeking a just solution to the Cyprus problem than Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar. We hope that we shall continue to have the possibility of utilizing all his wisdom and judgement in our efforts to achieve success in solving this problem.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

TRIBUTE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from Russian): Before adjourning the meeting, I should like, with the consent of the members of the Council, as expressed in consultations, to pay a well-deserved tribute to the Secretary-General, as his term of office expires, for his fruitful cooperation with the Council.

Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar has performed an outstanding international mission. Ten years in the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations are a whole epoch - and his term of office has been perhaps the most complex and most crucial period in the development of international relations the modern-day world has known. Selected as Secretary-General during one of the acute phases of the cold war, he is leaving his office at a time of turbulent transition in the international community towards instituting a new international order based on the principles of democracy and freedom. He personally has done a great deal to lead the United Nations out of crisis and to transform it from an arena of confrontation into one of cooperation, businesslike partnership and interaction.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar's name is rightly associated with the renaissance of the United Nations. His outstanding talent as an accomplished diplomat and international statesman is recognized by all. He has participated in the most important political events that have determined the course of the world for the past 10 years. His contribution to ending the Iran-Iraq war, to finding political solutions to the problems in Central America, Namibia, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Western Sahara and Cyprus, and to settling the Kuwait crisis is well known.

(The President)

I should like to make special mention of the great importance the Secretary-General has always attached to the observance by all States of the norms and principles of international law set forth in the Charter of the United Nations in the field of the maintenance of international peace and security. His fruitful cooperation as Secretary-General with the Security Council during these years has taken place against a background of a new kind of relationship between members of the Council. Very effective machinery for consultations has been set up, and the overwhelming majority of the Council's resolutions are now adopted unanimously. Even the academic arguments about the respective jurisdictions of the Secretary-General and the Security Council have stopped, and there has been fruitful cooperation between the Secretary-General and the members of the Council. Today, the Council is in constant touch with the Secretary-General, pays careful heed to his recommendations and relies fully upon his authority and personal capabilities in its efforts to solve the problems with which the international community is faced.

I am sure that I speak for all the members of the Council when I express our gratitude to Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar for his constant willingness to engage in dialogue and cooperation and for his great contribution to enabling the Council to carry out its extremely difficult tasks in maintaining international peace and security.

In conclusion, I should like to wish Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar many years of good health and a happy life and to express my conviction that his most valuable political experience and profound knowledge of international problems will continue to be used to the benefit of the international community as a whole.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.